

## What is Stormwater Runoff Pollution?

When it rains, the water runs across the ground, pavement areas, and parking lots, and picks up contaminants such as gas, oils, chemicals, animal waste, and litter. It gets carried down into the stormwater drains and ultimately into our local streams and rivers contaminating our waters.

# How does stormwater affect the Chesapeake Bay?

These pollutants get carried down the stormwater drain and into the bay. This can result in contaminated water that can be harmful to both humans and wildlife. It can affect the water we drink.

## Water Quality

Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution are the most serious problems facing the Bay. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus because algae blooms that block sunlight to underwater grasses. When the blooms decompose, they create "dead zones," where dissolved oxygen levels are too low to sustain fish and shellfish. Excess sediment also degrades water quality. Poor water quality results in the loss of habitat for aquatic species throughout the Bay and its tidal and free flowing rivers.



# What can you do to help?

For Chesapeake Bay restoration to be a success, we all must do our part. Our everyday actions can have a big impact on the Bay. By making simple changes in our daily lives, each one of us can take part in restoring the Bay and its rivers for future generations to enjoy.

To lessen the impacts of stormwater runoff on the Bay, consider doing the following:

- Do not litter.
- Do not dump any waste, oils, or other contaminants down the stormwater drain.
- Keep fertilizer on the lawn and off of driveways and sidewalks.
- Pick up after your pup.
- Wash your car at a carwash that properly drains chemicals.
- Research. Get involved. Volunteer.

